

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

**MAIN ENTRY:** Braxton, James Thomas

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** December 3, 2007

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Lubbock, Texas

**INTERVIEWER:** Daniel U. Sánchez

**FORMAT:** File on Server, 2 MiniDV's

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:**

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 1:47

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** James Braxton, long-time Lubbock resident, talks about his life. In particular he discusses his education, music career and experiences as a band teacher.

### ABSTRACT:

FILE	TIME STAMP
Personal Information	
Family information, homes	:01
Chores they completed	
Fondest memory – fishing, playing in the band	
Upbringing, neighborhood (middle class)	
Father and mother had different rules	
First School: Dunbar Elementary School, Tulsa, Oklahoma	
More about Dunbar Elementary School	:10
Curriculum, School Levels	
Instruments allowed playing at each level	
Played Violin in 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
Saxophone and Clarinet in 7 <sup>th</sup> Graded	
Playing in the band	
About Fiddle	
Played in Band Competitions, awards	
Making band troops and playing at game	

Went to Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama  
Went to Atlantic City, New Jersey to make money  
Start of his music career

Job in a town 65 miles away	:20
Went to Philadelphia	
Came back to Tuskegee to go back to college	
Came back to Tulsa, played saxophone in his brother's school	
Experience, feelings	
Met his wife, Bernice Robert	
Played in the army band	
University of Nebraska for 1 year	
Texas College for 2 years	
Received Masters at University of Denver	
Went to Oklahoma	
Band master at El Paso, Texas for 5 years	
Tried to learn Spanish	:30
Came to Lubbock, Texas in 1960	
Became Assistant Band Director	
Head Band Director	
Went to Atkins Junior High School as band director	
Got the band to number 1 rating	
Teaching experience	
His children, their careers	
His son – Thomas Braxton	:40
Feelings about his students doing well	
His piano teacher in Nebraska	
His student who learns Saxophone from him	
Teaching music is difficult.	
What music means to him	
Everyone must learn some music	
How difficult it is to replicate someone's work	:51
About Song	
People expect certain songs to be played.	
People who know music enjoy it more.	
Interruption	1:02 – 1:09
Interview Continued...	
Home	1:10
Medical Care: Dr. Chapman	

Dentist: Dr. Johnson

Changes after desegregation

Wife moved to Hardwick Elementary

Various schools he taught

Retirement 1985

Dunbar High School

Black teachers were moved to other schools

Sent to Atkins Junior High

Wife's work and retirement

About his cars and boat

1:23

Wife member of AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)

Changes in Lubbock since he came

Traffic, development, convenience

Played some of his music

**DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:** 1919

**GENDER OF INFORMANT:** Male

**ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT:** African American